

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claim 1 has been amended to more accurately define the invention claimed.

Bennington (United States Patent No. 3,958,571) discloses a swab applicator which comprises an elongated hollow tube open at one end, normally closed at the opposite end, and containing a solution. A swab of absorbent material is secured around the open end, and the opposite end is provided with means to open the end to permit the solution to flow by gravity into the swab. In one embodiment, the opening means is a “declevity” which allows the tube to be easily broken at the “declevity.”

Applicant’s invention is an applicator comprising a hollow elongated tubular handle with a sealed end and an open end. The hollow elongated tubular handle does not enclose any liquid. An applicator tip is affixed to one end of the hollow elongated tubular handle. In addition, no opening means is provided in the elected species. The applicator may be used to apply small quantity of liquid without absorption and retention of excess amount of the liquid into the hollow and empty elongated tubular handle through the open end by placing the applicator tip in contact with a liquid. In contrast, the opening means is necessary in Bennington for the applicator to function as disclosed. Without the opening means in Bennington, the solution in the hollow tube cannot be released from the hollow tube as disclosed.

Applicant hereby submits that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have all been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Application No.: 10/657,682  
Amendment dated: March 21, 2007  
Reply to Final Office Action of: January 24, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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